

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action dated August 27, 2003. In response thereto, claims 11, 43, and 50 are amended. Claims 11-53 are pending in the present application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11-23 and 41-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puri in view of Christeson et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 11 recites in a computer network having at least one server, including a full set of software and a full set of configuration information relating to a set of products, connectable to at least one client, a method for creating technical configurations and electronically delivering order reports to at least one client, the method comprising: receiving on-line a desired product selected from the set of products by a user on the client; downloading to the client only limited configuration information that is a subset of the full set of configuration information and limited configuration programs that are a subset of the full configuration program, wherein the limited configuration information and limited configuration programs are determined based on the desired product; requesting on-line a desired technical configuration from the user, wherein the viability of the desired technical configuration has been preliminarily checked at the client using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs; receiving the desired technical configuration from the client and performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration using the full set of configuration information and the full set of configuration programs on the server; and preparing and outputting an electronic order report, if the full check is successful.

Puri discloses a smart configurator that provides a proposal template to collect customer input and merge customer responses during a product selection session into fields within the proposal template. More specifically, Puri discloses a smart configurator that includes various automated and autonomous (i.e. off-line) functions that are accessible by the browser through a database (column 3, lines 24-26). At the start of a session, the company field personnel may

demonstrate a product to an established or prospective customer. The smart configurator provides an interactive, off-line product selection dialog in which a matrix of company products is presented. The customer or field personnel select products, for example by checking boxes on HTML forms which are displayed on the workstation display. The smart configurator then performs a pricing calculation, taking into account such factors or special pricing, discounts, and delivery terms. In the preferred embodiment, various transaction specific details are merged into a formatted proposal that may include standard company sales terms and conditions. The smart configurator also provides a part number locator that provides order information. The smart configurator may also optionally be used to provide additional information to the customer in the form of company and partner information, e.g. telephone and email numbers of key contacts, contact information for company and/or partner Web pages, e.g. sales, product details, system metrics and benchmark information. Finally, the smart configurator may optionally be placed on-line to check for the existence of more current pricing and SKU information at a company server. An on-line connection may also be used to enter an order, receive a confirmation and shipping date, or request technical support. Thereafter, the transaction is complete (column 3, line 51 to column 4, line 21). Accordingly, nowhere in Puri does it disclose or teach that upon receiving on-line a desired product selected from a set of products by a user on the client, the server downloads to the client only limited confirmation information that is a subset of a full set of configuration information and limited configuration programs that are a subset of the full configuration program, wherein the limited confirmation information and limited configuration programs are determined based on the desired product, as recited in claim 11. In fact, Puri discloses that the significant to its invention is the ability to perform all sales related functions off-line on the client side. Further, Puri discloses that it is contemplated that the customer will be guided through the sales process by the smart configurator off-line at a location remote from the company facilities, i.e. in the field (on the client side). Furthermore, Puri discloses that the primary use of a network connection to the smart configurator is to provide update information to the smart configurator using push technology (see column 2, line 63 to column 3, line 7). In other words, the smart configurator teaches to connect the network so as to obtain update information of product's more current pricing and SKU information (column 4, lines 17-18), or entering an order, a confirmation and shipping date, or requesting technical support, rather than downloading of limited configuration information and limited configuration rules based on

desired product on-line selected by the user. Thus, Puri teaches away from an interactive, on-line product selection via downloading only limited configuration information and limited configuration rules that are determined based on the desired product selected by the user as recited in claim 11.

In addition, nowhere in Puri does it disclose or teach requesting on-line a desired technical configuration from the user, wherein the viability of the desired technical configuration has been preliminarily checked at the client using the limited configuration information and the limited configuration programs as recited in claim 11. Further, Puri fails to disclose or teach receiving the desired technical configuration from the client and performing a full check on the viability of the desired technical configuration using the full set of configuration information and the full set of configuration programs on the server as recited in claim 11. There is no preliminary check process and/or full check process on the viability of the desired technical configuration in Puri.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Puri not only does not disclose or teach the recited features in claim 11, but also teaches away from the recited features. Further, Puri does not appreciate the benefits and advantages of sending only a limited amount of information to the client due to the data transfer time limitation and client response limitation. In the claimed invention, only limited configuration information and rules are sent to the client, while the full configuration information and rules exist at the server. Puri does not address the problems associated with client-side and/or server-side computational and interactive systems, when a large amount of time is spent transferring data over the network, such as the Internet (see at least the Background of the Invention, from page 6, the last paragraph to page 8, the 2nd paragraph).

Christeson discloses a client-server system and method providing real time access to a variety of database systems for decision making applications, such as dynamic price quoting, product/service configuration and ordering, and billing verification. More specifically, Christeson provides a graphical user with a friendly graphical interface with transparent access the plurality of database systems and automatically provides the user to select/unselect optional features via the graphical user interface, thereby providing immediate feedback with respect to the user's selections (column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 13). Christeson also fails to disclose or teach the above discussed features and/or appreciates the benefits and advantages of the claimed

invention as recited in claim 11. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 patentably distinguishes over Puri in view of Christeson.

Claim 43 also recites the above discussed features and therefore is patentable over Puri in view of Christeson. Claims 12-23, 41-42, and 44-53 which are dependent from claims 11 and 43, respectively, are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

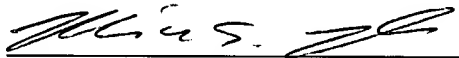
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

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